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Local Foundation Funds Vietnamese Language Video
on Cervical Cancer Risks

November 26, 2003 – The HealthCare Foundation for Orange County has provided funds to Nhan Hoa Comprehensive Health Care Clinic, Inc. for development of a video on cervical cancer. The aim of the video, to be aired on local Vietnamese language television, is to encourage women to seek testing for cervical cancer. The California Department of Health Services reports cervical cancer is the most common cancer for Vietnamese American women, while breast cancer is more common in other populations.

Although the Papanicolaou (Pap) test has saved thousands of lives since it was first introduced in the 1950's, the health of the nation's women is still jeopardized by inadequate access to health screening. The disease has disparate impact on women from low-income and racial- and ethnic- minority groups.

The HealthCare Foundation's grant was one of two focused on the need for improved education and outreach to Asian and Hispanic populations. While funding through the Orange County Health Care Agency has increased for screening and treatment, there are still populations in the County who do not recognize the importance of screening and early detection of cervical cancer. The Foundation sees this effort as dovetailing with the County's work, to increase the numbers of higher-risk women seeking an annual Pap test.

In developing the video, Nhan Hoa will interview Vietnamese American women in their own clinic and elsewhere, to gain a better understanding of perceptions and barriers to care. This information, combined with descriptive information on the risks and importance of screening, will be aired at least 10 times locally, and made available for use elsewhere.

This project was funded under the Foundation's "Gold Fund for Health" grant program, which provides grants directly to community-based organizations assisting low-income families in Orange County. Organizations apply on-line through GrantPartners.net, a shared grant application website, developed in concert with the Health Funders Partnership of Orange County.

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